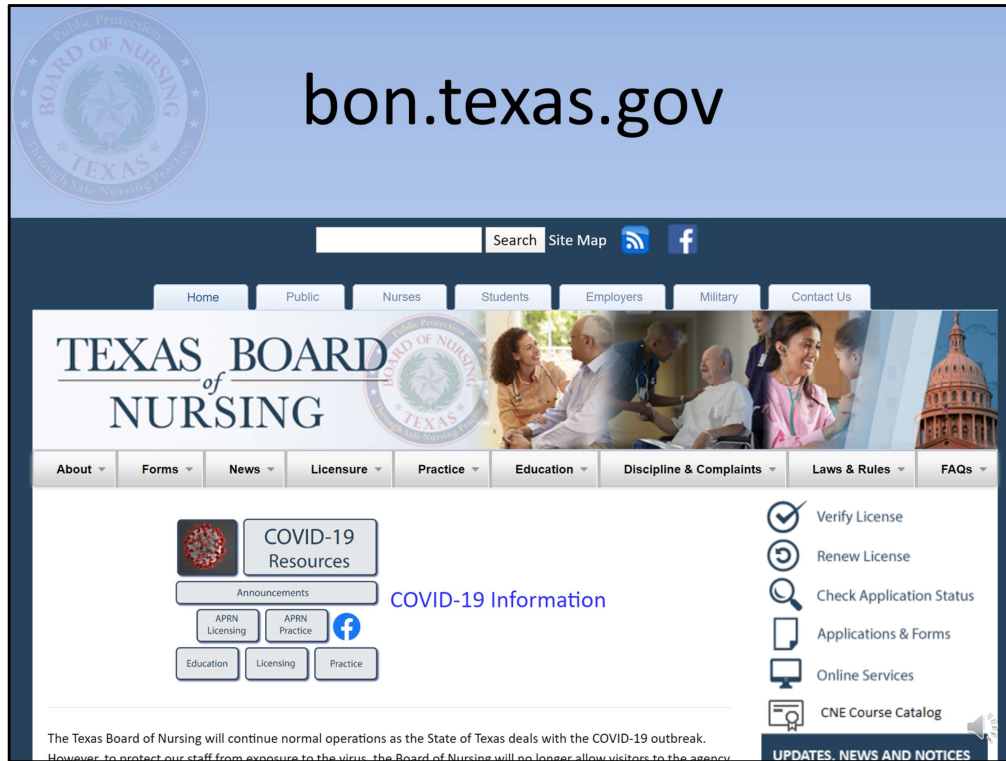


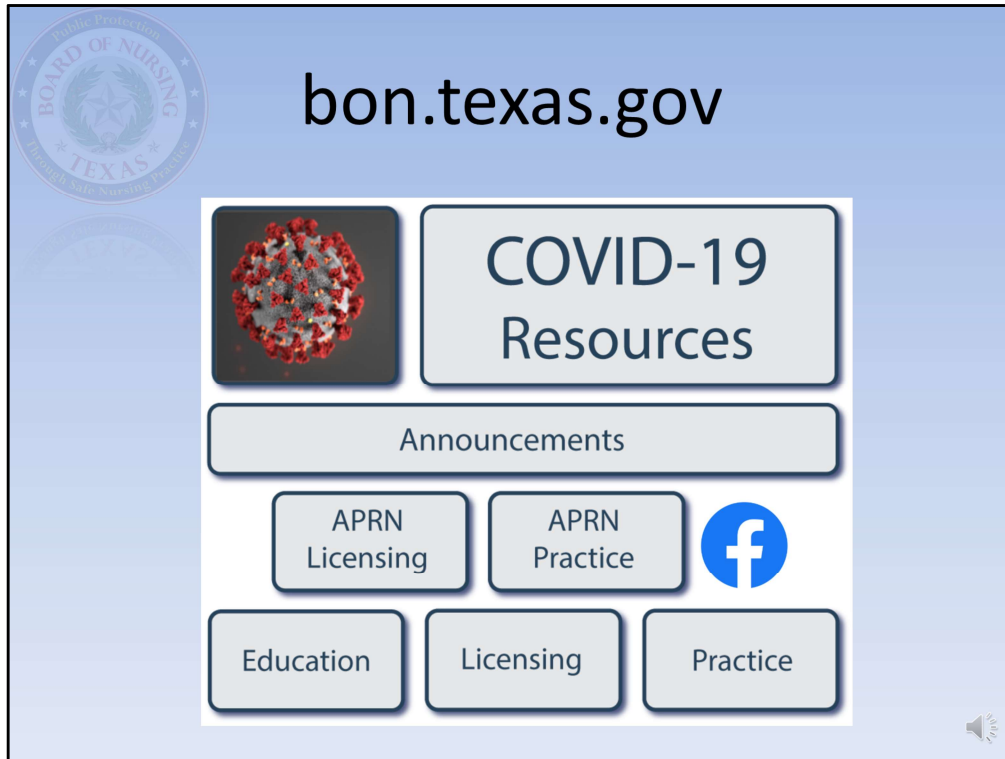
- Hello Board staff at the Texas board of Nursing (BON) welcome you to a presentation on APRN licensing during the current state of disaster declared by governor Abbott on March 13th.
- The Texas Board of Nursing, with direction and assistance from the Governor's Office, is implementing procedures to waive certain requirements to help the state's advanced practice registered nurses respond to COVID-19. The requests for these waivers were based upon the assertion that strict compliance with these laws could prevent, hinder, or delay the deliverance of medical services in relation to efforts to cope with the declared disaster.
- This presentation will focus primarily on information related to APRN licensing and practice, as well as resources to inform APRN practice on the BON website.
- The information presented in this presentation is current up until the date of 4/29/2020.



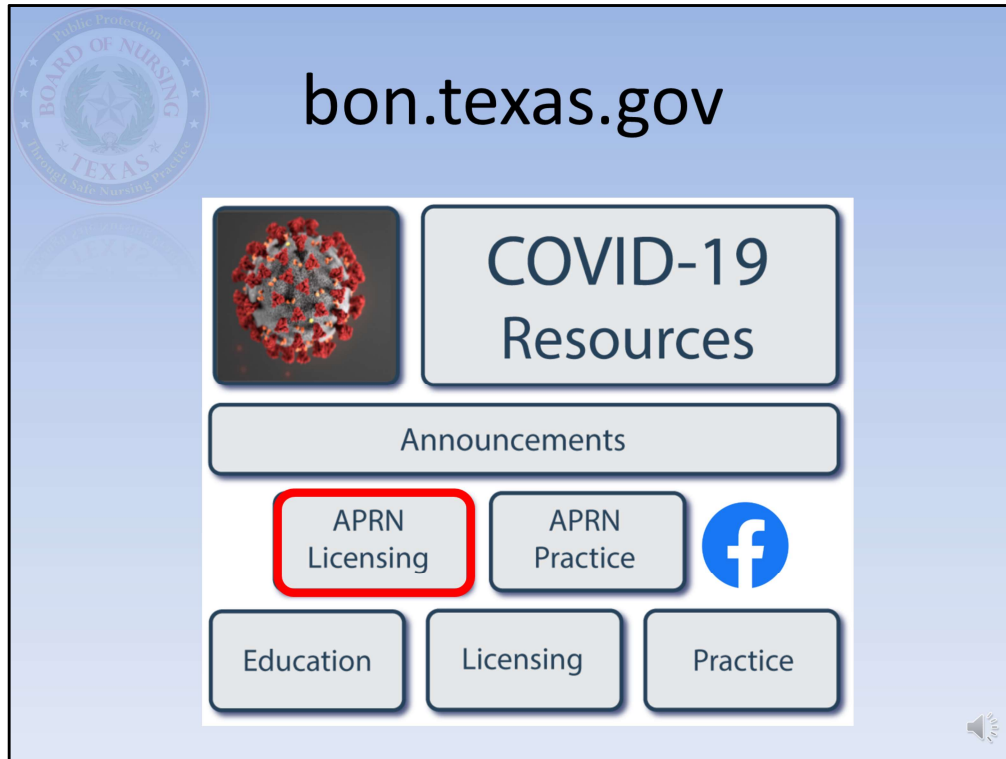
Please continue to check the [BON website](https://bon.texas.gov) for the latest updates.



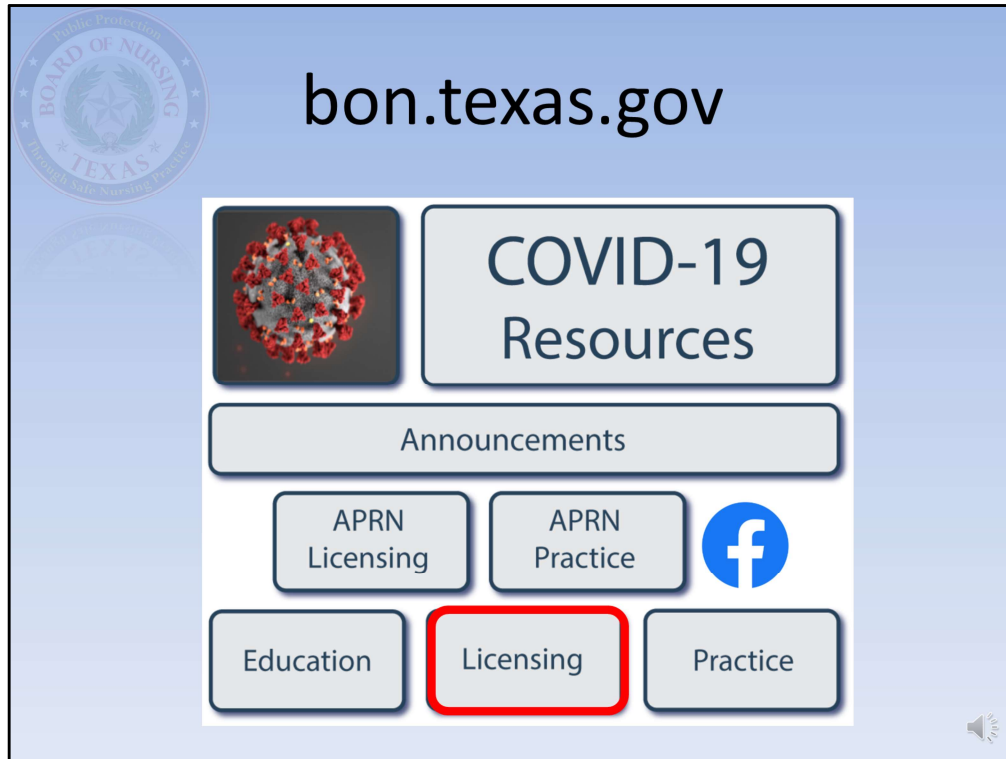
We have a dedicated [COVID-19 Resources](#) page which includes information on granted licensure related waivers.



During this presentation we will focus primarily on information available within the ...



APRN licensing content tab which includes information on waived regulations for APRN licensing and changes to the APRN licensing application process.



- We will also discuss information within the licensing tab on the Board's COVID-19 Resource page. Please review the information within these two content areas further as these two areas will be your primary sources for information related to waivers for certain licensing requirements and application instructions.
- It is important to note that Licenses that not in good standing, in that they are suspended, revoked, surrendered, or otherwise placed inactive based on the terms of any prior disciplinary order, and licenses currently under disciplinary monitoring or investigation are excluded from the Governor approved waiver process.
- Also, if a nurse is working in a capacity beyond assistance with the COVID-19 response or to obtain Texas licensure, the nurse will need to apply for licensure in Texas and submit all supporting documents and licensure fees in the usual manner.
- Additionally, the suspension of such requirements we will discuss will be in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires.



Out of State License Holders

In accordance with [Section 418.171 of Texas Government Code](#), any any out-of-state nurse with a license in good standing is not required to hold a Texas license in order to practice nursing in a disaster relief effort operation setting.



- One of the first regulation changes in response to the state of disaster declaration applied to out of state nurses.
- The Texas Board of Nursing is allowing out-of-state nurses with a license in good standing to practice nursing in Texas in a disaster relief effort operation setting.
- This applies to all nursing license holders at all levels LVN, RN, and APRN that wish to practice in Texas for the purposes of disaster relief. The Governor's direction in this matter is clear that this waiver would only apply to licenses in good standing; meaning permits or other temporary authorizations to practice from other states that are not full professional licenses are not transferable and are not acceptable authorizations to practice nursing in the state of Texas.
- All out of state nurses planning to practice in Texas must know and conform to the Texas nursing practice act and board rules as well as any other laws and rules related to their area of practice. Scope of practice for all nurses practicing in Texas remains unchanged during this disaster.



APRN Practice in Texas

- Texas APRNs do not have full practice authority.
- Must collaborate with a Texas licensed physician who was practicing in Texas prior to the disaster declaration, per the rules of the Texas Medical Board.



- For APRNs this would mean collaborating with a physician to function within the APRN scope. Texas APRNs do not have full practice authority. Delegation from a physician is required for APRNs to provide medical aspects of care and to therapeutically order and prescribe. At this time, an APRN who wishes to practice in Texas must collaborate with a Texas licensed physician who was practicing in Texas prior to the disaster declaration, per the rules of the Texas Medical Board.
- For example, let's discuss a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner with an APRN license in good standing from California wanting to provide services to patients in Texas via telehealth. Telehealth is considered to take place where the patient is physically located at the time services are rendered, so if a patient is located in Texas, to provide nursing services to this patient the APRN this nurse would need to have appropriate licensure, which this APRN license does in the form of a license in good standing from California, and physician delegation from a Texas licensed physician who was practicing in Texas prior to the disaster declaration.



Physician Delegation

- Texas nurse practitioners are required to have "Protocols or other written authorization" in place in order to provide medical aspects of patient care as noted in [Board Rule 221.13\(d\)](#)
- Requirement for written authorization has been waived for APRNs practicing in disaster relief settings.



- Furthermore, prior to the state of disaster declaration it was required that the authorization for all APRNs to provide medical aspects of care and prescriptive authority be written. However, the requirement for written authorization has been waived for APRNs practicing in disaster relief settings.
- Although it may not be written, collaborating physicians and APRNs should have an established understanding of the limits of the delegation and the APRN's practice, including limits of any prescribing authority for dangerous drugs." The Board recommends that APRNs keep their own personal records of the physician(s) with whom they collaborate for disaster relief purposes should that information be required in the future for any reason. This is only a recommendation; it is founded in the general belief that should an APRN be required to defend their practice for any reason documentation could be beneficial.
- APRNs that are practicing in their regular practice sites and are not practicing in a disaster relief operation setting, must continue to practice under written authorization in the form of protocols or prescriptive authority agreements.

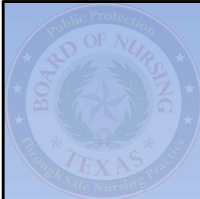


APRN Reactivation

- All Texas licensed APRNs are required to maintain RN licensure.
- RN license must be current and in good standing.
- Review information for RN licensing waivers on the BON COVID-19 resource page.



- Next we will discuss reactivating APRN licensure and the currently suspended regulations.
- To begin know that all Texas APRNs must maintain active RN licensure to maintain Texas APRN licensure.
- To reactivate a Texas APRN license your Texas RN license must current or you must have a current multistate RN license from a compact state. Regulation requiring the base RN license for APRN licensure be a current Texas RN license or a multistate RN have not been suspended.
- If you have a TEXAS RN license that is inactive or delinquent you will need to renew your RN license as well as your APRN. These can be renewed using the same form. Please review the instructions on how to do so within the COVID-19 resource page on BON website.
- If you do not have a Texas RN license or a current multistate RN license, you will need to either obtain a Texas RN license or obtain a current multistate RN license in your primary state of residence to apply for reactivation of your Texas APRN.

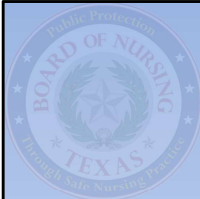


APRN Reactivation

- Category 1 - APRNs whose license is in delinquent or inactive status and who last practiced **more than two years, but less than four years ago.**
- Category 2 - includes APRNs whose license is in delinquent or inactive status and who last practiced **more than four years ago**



- We can divide APRN license reactivation applicants into two categories.
- Category 1 - APRNs whose license is in delinquent or inactive status and who last practiced **more than two years, but less than four years ago.**
- Category 2 - includes APRNs whose license is in delinquent or inactive status and who last practiced **more than four years ago**



Category 1

The following items have been waived

1. Reactivation fee;
2. Continuing education requirements; and
3. Practice requirements (obtaining 400 hours).

There is not a waiver from the national certification in the advanced practice role and population focus area requirement for Category 1 applicants for APRN reactivation



- For Category 1 applicants the following items have been waived
 1. Reactivation fee;
 2. Continuing education requirements; and
 3. Current practice in the APRN role and population focus area totaling at least 400 hours.
- There is not a waiver from holding a current, meaning not expired, national certification in the advanced practice role and population focus area that is consistent with the role and population focus of the inactive APRN license. A waiver for certification exists and is only applicable to new APRN graduates, we will cover it later in this presentation.



Category 2

The following items have been waived

1. Reactivation fee;
2. Continuing education requirements

There is not a waiver from the national certification and refresher course/extensive orientation requirements for Category 2 applicants for APRN reactivation



- For Category 2 applicants the following items have been waived
 1. the Reactivation fee;
 2. and the Continuing education requirements;
- There is not a waiver from holding a national certification or the refresher course requirement for category 2 applicants. As with category 1 applicants, the national certification in the advanced practice role and population must be current and consistent with the role and population focus of the inactive APRN license. A refresher course must also be completed. For the APRN this is a program designed to update knowledge of current nursing theory and clinical practice to ensure competence of these nurses re-entering advanced practice nursing. It does include a supervised clinical component which requires that the applicant apply for the necessary six-month permit.
- Additional information on any required fees, refresher courses, applying for the necessary six-month permit, as well as other instruction to reactivate your APRN license on the BON's covid-19 resource page by selecting ...



The APRN licensing content area.




COVID-19 APRN Licensing

[Governor Abbott temporarily suspends the initial national certification examination requirement for new APRN graduates - 4/21/20. \(For more specific information and a summary of the required items to qualify for this graduate APRN approval visit this link.\)](#)

[Governor Abbott Waives Certain Regulations to Allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses \(APRNs\) to Reactivate Inactive Licenses - 3/28/20](#)

Governor Abbott Waives Regulations to Allow LVNs, RNs, & APRNs a 6-month Grace Period for Licensure Renewal- 3/23/20

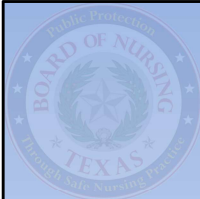
The Office of the Governor granted a waiver of Texas Occupations Code 301.301(c), (c-1), and (f), [22 Tex. Admin. Code 223.1\(a\)\(5\)](#), [22 Tex. Admin. Code 217.6\(a\)](#), and [22 Tex. Admin. Code 216.8\(d\)\(1\)](#). As a result of these waived regulations, beginning on March 23, 2020, Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), Registered Nurses (RNs), and Advanced

- Verify License
- Renew License
- Check Application Status
- Applications & Forms
- Online Services
- CNE Course Catalog

UPDATES, NEWS AND NOTICES

- COVID-19 Information
- Beware of Scam Tactics Utilized During the COVID-19 Outbreak
- Telephone Scam Alert
- Notice of Proposed NLC Rulemaking
- Notice to Licensees Who Bill for Services
- Texas Department of Insurance has Adopted Emergency Rules related to Balance Billing
- Opioid prescribing CE opportunity for APRNs
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

And clicking the hyperlink regarding waived regulations for APRNs to reactivate licenses.

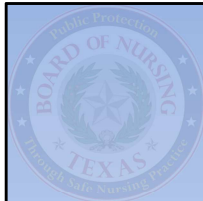


New Graduates

- Effective 4/21/2020 Governor Abbott temporarily suspends the initial national certification examination requirement in rule 221.4(a)(3) for new APRN graduates
- Applicants for this waiver must have completed their educational program on or after December 1, 2019



- Now for new graduates. Effective 4/21/2020 Governor Abbott temporarily suspended the initial national certification examination requirement for new APRN graduates
- Applicants for this waiver must have completed their educational program on or after December 1, 2019.
- This waiver does not apply to applicants under current investigation, with discipline, or those with eligibility issues.

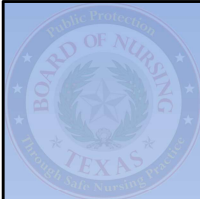


New Graduates

- APRN graduates that have met all licensure requirements **except national certification** may begin practicing under direct physician supervision.
- This graduate approval does not include prescriptive authority.



As a result of this waiver, new APRN graduates who have applied for APRN licensure with the Board of Nursing and have met all licensure requirements **except national certification** may begin practicing under direct physician supervision while waiting to sit for his/her national certification exam. New grads can only begin practicing under direct supervision if they have been issued formal graduate approval by the Texas Board of Nursing. This graduate approval does not include prescriptive authority.



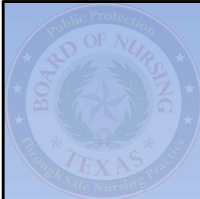
Direct Supervision

Direct supervision of an APRN with graduate approval requires that the physician:

- Be licensed in Texas and credentialed to practice in the same specialty area
- Participates in the assessment, management, and follow-up of each patient;
- Remains physically present and immediately available to the APRN candidate at all times;
- Reviews and signs all patient records



- For further clarification direct supervision of an APRN with graduate approval requires that the physician:
 1. Be licensed in Texas and credentialed to practice in the same specialty area
 2. Participates in the assessment, management, and follow-up of each patient;
 3. Remains physically present and immediately available to the APRN candidate at all times;
 4. Reviews and signs all patient records
- After expiration of the waiver, graduate approval will expire and applicants must successfully pass the required national certification examination in order to receive permanent APRN licensure, and if requested, prescriptive authority.
- For additional information, including information on what is necessary to apply for graduate approval and information on how to apply, please reference the APRN licensing content area discussed previously. A hyperlink associated to this information can be found directly above the hyperlink to the APRN reactivation information.

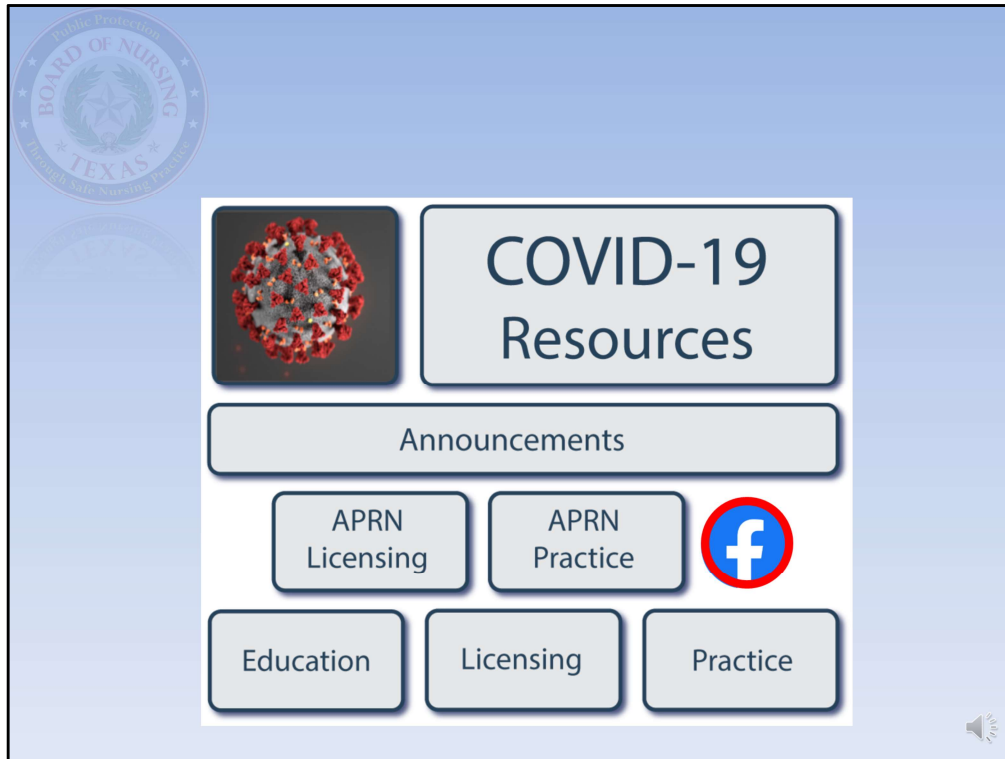


Renewal Waivers

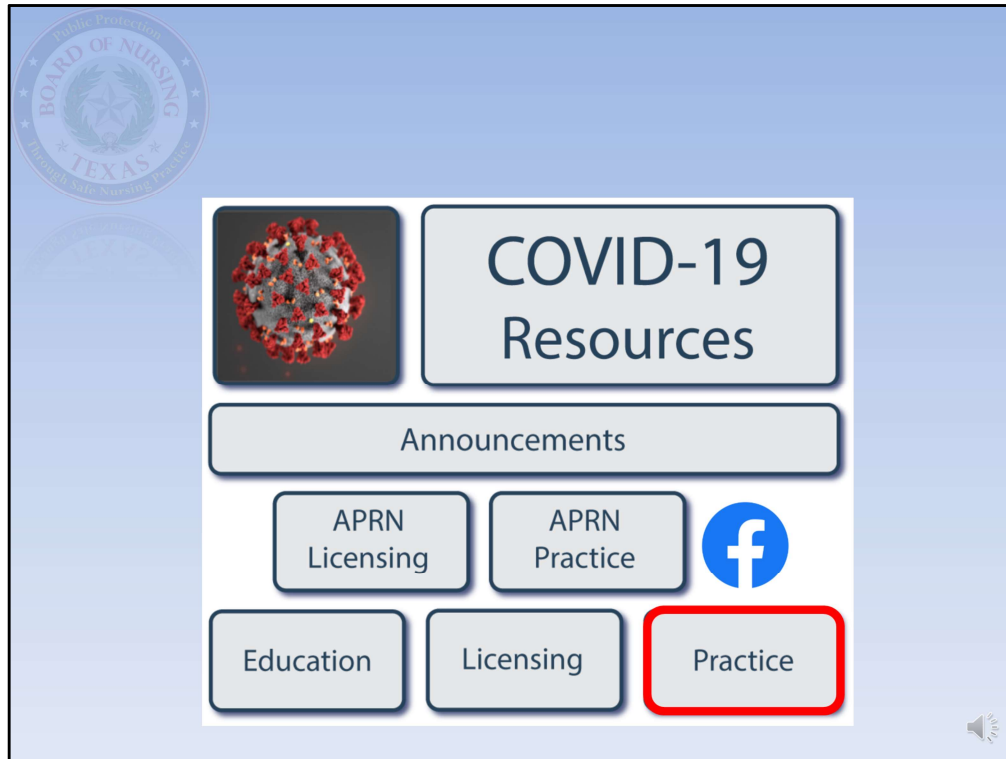
- Beginning on March, 23, 2020 all nurses will have a grace period until September 30, 2020 to renew their license(s) without any late fees incurred or need to submit evidence of continuing education.
- This waiver also applies to renewals of prescriptive authority.



- Information that applies to APRNs set to renew during this time period.
- Beginning on March, 23, 2020 all nurses have been granted a grace period until September 30, 2020 to renew their license(s) without any late fees incurred or need to submit evidence of continuing education. Any nurse whose license expires between march 23 and September 30th may continue to practice nursing until September 30th.
- This waiver also applies to renewals of prescriptive authority.




This concludes the presentation content on APRN licensing. Before ending this presentation we will cover additional resources that can be accessed on the BON website as these resources relate to practicing during this challenging time. From the Covid-19 resource page you can select the Facebook icon to view the Boards Facebook page. We encourage nurses to check the BON Facebook page for updates on nursing licensing and board operations which will be posted as soon as possible. We may also post links to relevant information as it relates to nursing practice in Texas.



Also accessible from the COVID-19 resource page are general nursing practice FAQs for practicing during the pandemic. Information and resources within this content area can help nurses understand the laws and rules in Texas as they relate to nursing practice during the pandemic including such concepts as scope of practice, abandonment, and safe harbor to name a few.

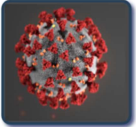


A specific set of FAQs created to help answer some common questions about APRN practice during this time can be found within the APRN Practice content area.



Other Resources

[About](#)
[Forms](#)
[News](#)
[Licensure](#)
[Practice](#)
[Education](#)
[Discipline & Complaints](#)
[Laws & Rules](#)
[FAQs](#)



COVID-19 APRN Practice

[Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Related to Hospital Capacity During the COVID-19 Disaster - 4/17/20](#)

[NEW- Updated Safe Harbor Forms - 4/10/20](#) - New forms and a brief video discussing the new legislative changes that impact Safe Harbor.

COVID-19 APRN Practice Frequently Asked Questions

- [Scope of Practice](#)
- [Physician Delegation to Provide Medical Aspects of Care and Prescriptive Authority](#)
- [Prescriptive Authority](#)

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- [Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

Additional resources on the BON website are available outside the COVID-19 resource page. You can navigate to these resources using the banner across the top of the page or the search box at the top of the page.



Some helpful resources are available underneath the practice tab, including information as it relates to APRN scope of practice in Texas.



On this same list is a link to the BON [guidelines](#). The guidelines do not carry the force of law but provide an evidenced based perspective on practice related topics to promote patient safety. One such guideline provided references information for transitioning of the experienced nurse back into clinical practice or into a new practice setting. Reviewing information provided here could be beneficial to nurses reentering the workforce and employers planning to hire such a nurse.



The Board Position Statements are also accessible from this list. Like guidelines position statements do not carry the force of law, but are intended to provide guidance, in the context of the totality of each position statement. BON position statements help provide clarity on such topics as a nurse's duty to a patient and scope of practice.



The most current version of the NPA and Board's rules & regulations are accessible on the [BON website](#) under the Laws & Rules drop-down menu.



- Finally, in addition to the FAQ sections on the COVID-19 resource page there are additional FAQ accessible on the BON website as they relate specifically to APRN practice and nursing practice.
- On behalf of Board of Nursing Staff, we hope you found this presentation helpful and informative. Please continue to check the board of nursing website for the most up to date information.